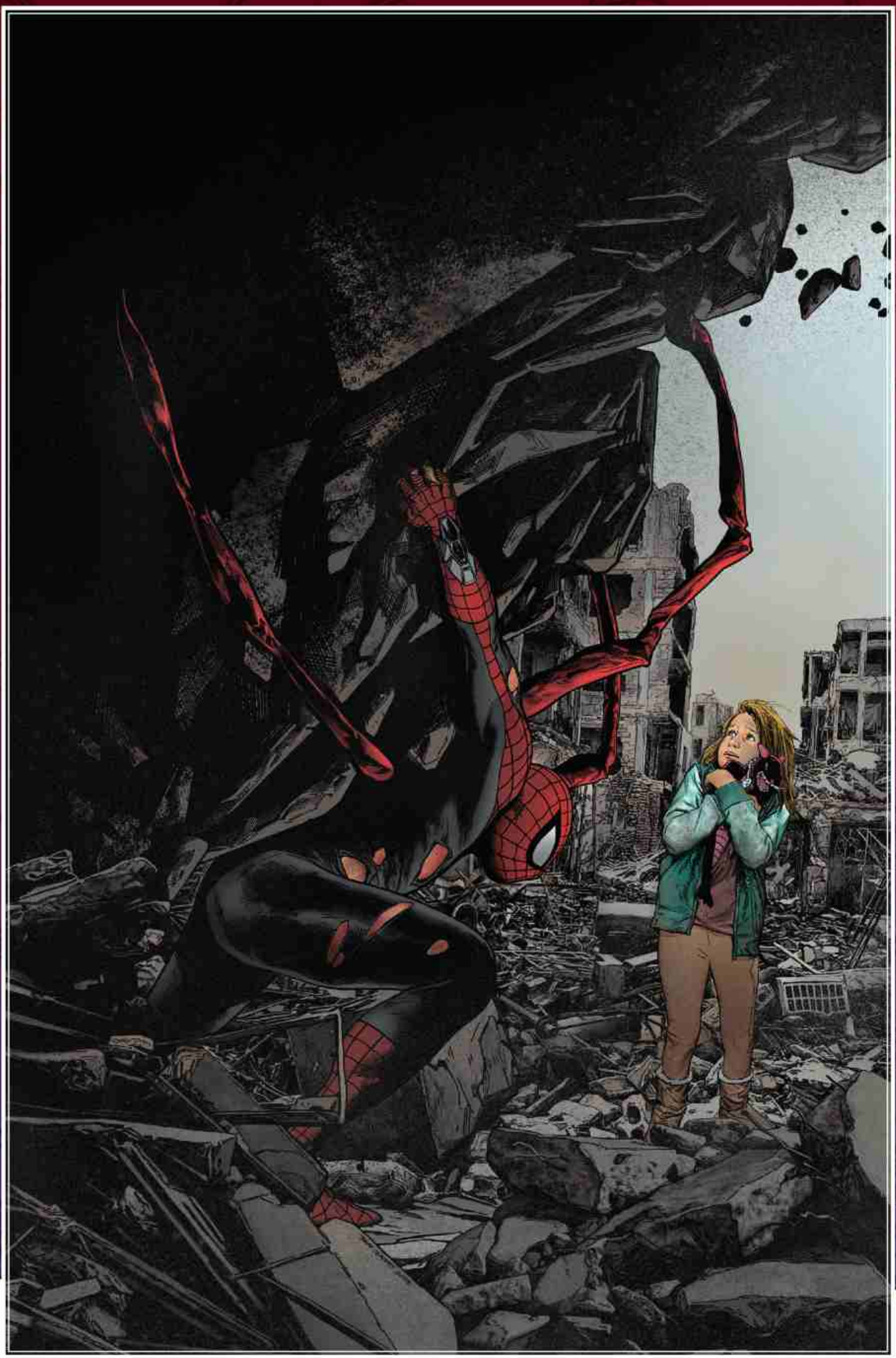
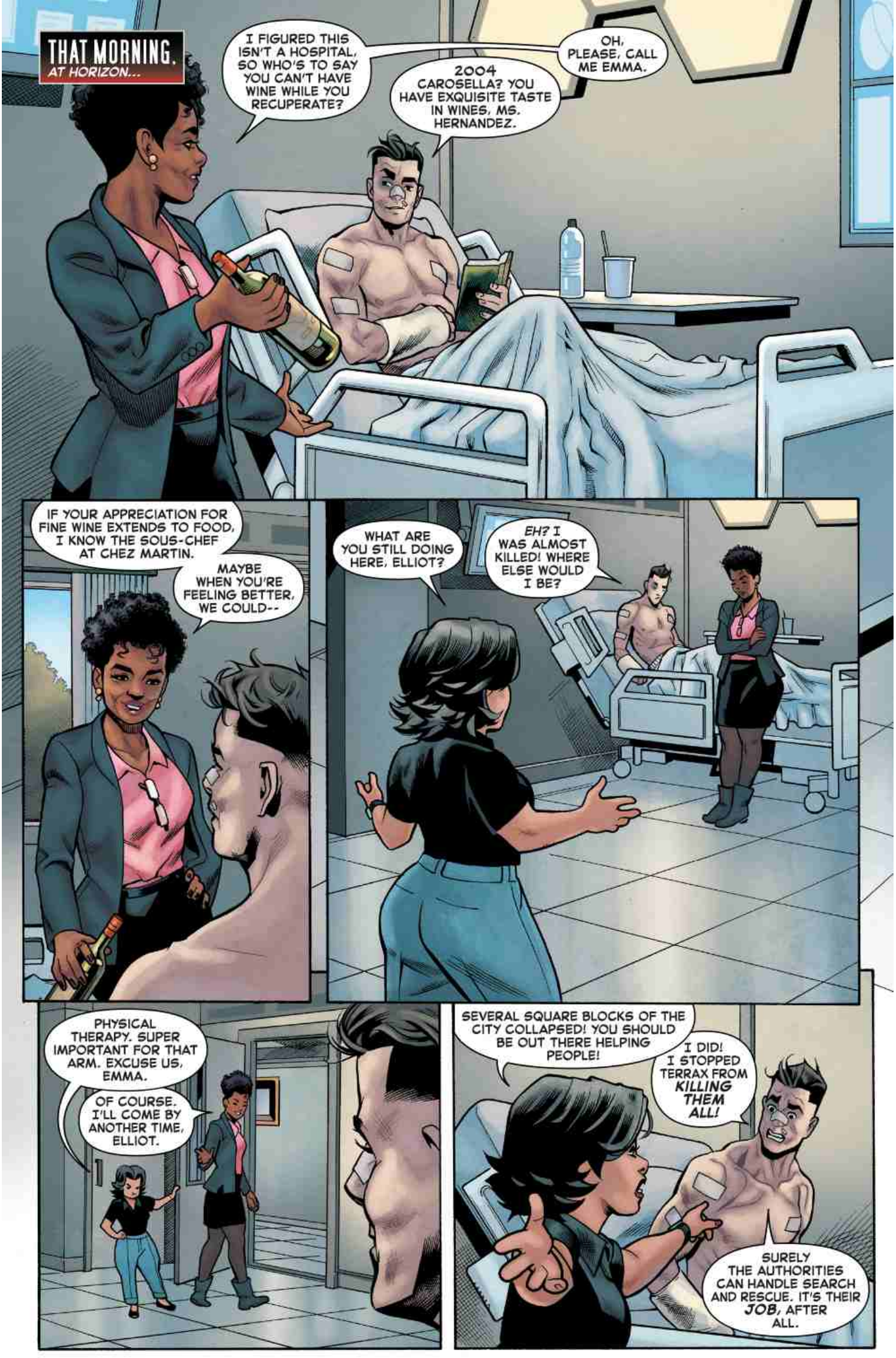


SAN FRANCISCO.
THE AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN TERRAX THE TAMER AND THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN.
QUICKLY NOW! BEFORE THERE'S A SECONDARY COLLAPSE.
THANK YOU!
I THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD...

GREAT WORK, SPIDER-MAN.
SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN.
WE'RE STRETCHED SO THIN, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR SURVIVORS.
HERE. ON THIS TABLET YOU WILL FIND A SCHEMATIC SHOWING THE LOCATIONS MOST LIKELY TO BEAR FRUIT BASED ON BLUEPRINTS AND POPULATION.
DEPLOY ALL YOUR FORCES THERE.
BUT WHAT IF THERE ARE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN OTHER PLACES?
YOU CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE.
IT'S A WASTE OF RESOURCES TO TRY.
AND, AH, OF COURSE, I WILL BE BLANKETING THE UNDERSERVED AREAS WITH MY SPIDER-BOTS.
SHOULD THEY DETECT ANY SURVIVORS, THEY WILL ALERT ME OR THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.
RIGHT. SORRY, FOR A MINUTE THERE I THOUGHT YOU MEANT--NEVER MIND.
GOOD HEAVENS, WOMAN. I SAID WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO.
WILL YOU PLEASE STOP SCREAMING PROFANITIES IN MY EAR?

HORIZON UNIVERSITY.
LAB OF ANNA MARIA MARCONI.
YOU JUST ADVOCATED LETTING PEOPLE DIE!
I ADVOCATED MARSHALING RESOURCES WHERE THEY CAN SAVE THE MOST LIVES. IT'S CALLED "TRIAGE." HOSPITALS DO IT EVERY DAY.
YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME AN ANEURYSM.
ONE CANNOT "GIVE" AN ANEURYSM. IT'S MEDICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU MIGHT BE THE FIRST.
SPIDER-MAN!
THAT'S "SUPERIOR" SPIDER-MAN.
MAY I HELP YOU, MADAM?
YOU SAVED MY LIFE. WHEN YOU'RE DONE, COME BACK. I'LL MAKE YOU KIELBASA.
I HAVE NO TIME FOR SUCH TRIVIALITIES--
WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS, THANK YOU. I'D BE DELIGHTED.
THWIP
WHY DID YOU TELL ME TO SAY THAT? I ABHOR KIELBASA.
YOU'LL EAT THE KIELBASA AND LIKE IT.
THIS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE BEST IDEA.
OH, YOU'RE TELLING ME...


THAT MORNING.
AT HORIZON...
I FIGURED THIS ISN'T A HOSPITAL, SO WHO'S TO SAY YOU CAN'T HAVE WINE WHILE YOU RECUPERATE?
2004 CAROSELLA? YOU HAVE EXQUISITE TASTE IN WINES, MS. HERNANDEZ.
OH, PLEASE, CALL ME EMMA.
IF YOUR APPRECIATION FOR FINE WINE EXTENDS TO FOOD, I KNOW THE SOUS-CHEF AT CHEZ MARTIN.
MAYBE WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, WE COULD--
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE, ELLIOT?
EH? I WAS ALMOST KILLED! WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE?
PHYSICAL THERAPY. SUPER IMPORTANT FOR THAT ARM. EXCUSE US, EMMA.
OF COURSE. I'LL COME BY ANOTHER TIME, ELLIOT.
SEVERAL SQUARE BLOCKS OF THE CITY COLLAPSED! YOU SHOULD BE OUT THERE HELPING PEOPLE!
I DID! I STOPPED TERRAX FROM KILLING THEM ALL!
SURELY THE AUTHORITIES CAN HANDLE SEARCH AND RESCUE. IT'S THEIR JOB, AFTER ALL.

MAYBE THEY CAN, AND MAYBE THEY CAN'T. EITHER WAY, THEY CAN USE YOUR HELP.
YOU SAY YOU'RE A HERO? PUT ON THIS RIDICULOUS COSTUME AND GO BE HEROIC.
MAY I REMIND YOU MY ARM IS BROKEN? I SUPPOSE I COULD DEPLOY SPIDER-BOTS. BUT I DON'T SEE WHY MY PRESENCE IS REQUIRED.
I'LL TELL YOU WHY.
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN ARROGANT JERK.
YOU CLAIM YOU WANT TO BE A HERO. HELP PEOPLE.
BUT YOU HAVE CONTEMPT FOR THE PEOPLE YOU'RE SUPPOSEDLY TRYING TO HELP. YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN THEM.
BECAUSE I AM! LET'S NOT MINCE WORDS, ANNA. I'M FAR MORE INTELLIGENT--
YOU'RE BETTER AT NUCLEAR PHYSICS. CLONING. ROBOTICS.
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO SOMEONE WHO JUST LOST THEIR CHILD?
I--I DON'T SEE WHY THAT'S RELEVANT--
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU'RE GOING OUT THERE. SEEING THE PEOPLE YOU SAVED UP CLOSE. GETTING TO KNOW THEM.
AND DON'T THINK ABOUT SLACKING OFF. 'CAUSE I'M GONNA BE IN YOUR EAR THE WHOLE TIME.
NOW GO BE A HERO OR I'LL KICK YOUR ASS.

NOW.
AH, NIGHT SHIFT. WELL DONE, YOU ANSWERED MY SUMMONS WITH DISPATCH.
DIGGER, I SEE YOU ARE NO WORSE FOR WEAR AFTER BEING SLICED IN HALF.
I FEARED I WOULD BE UNDERSTAFFED.
GOOD AS NEW, MORTUARY-MATE! EVEN THE MAGGOTS ARE MOVING BACK IN.
MY SPIDER-BOTS DETECTED SLIGHT MOVEMENT UNDER THIS RUBBLE, BUT IT COULD SIMPLY BE DEBRIS SHIFTING.
WAXMAN, I WISH YOU TO SQUEEZE THROUGH THE SEAMS. DETERMINE IF THERE ARE SURVIVORS.
IT'S FILTHY IN THERE. I'LL HAVE DIRT IN MY WAX FOR DAYS--
YOU WILL DO AS I SAY, MISCREANT! OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

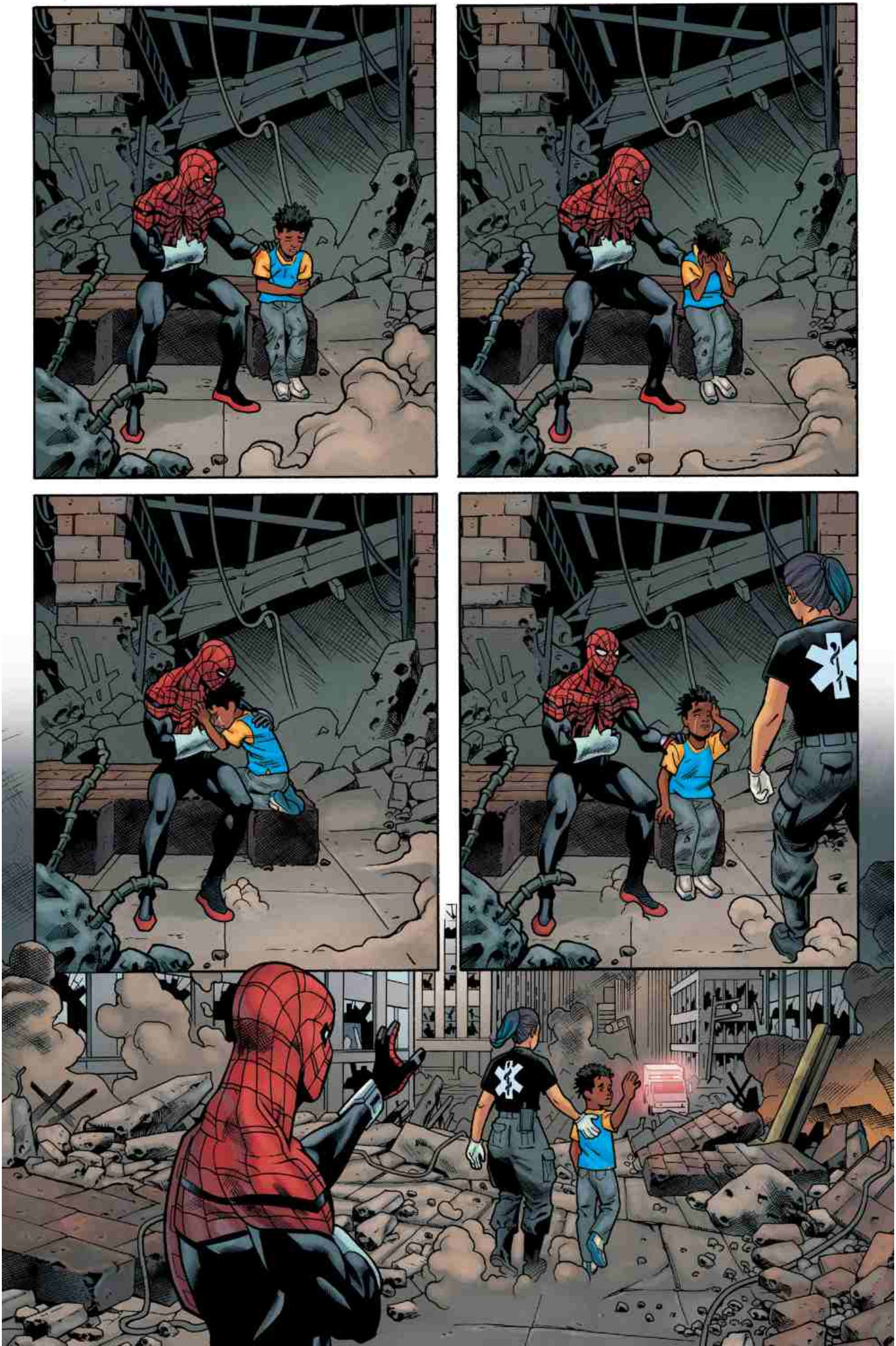
POMPOUS WINDBAG.
WHO IS THAT... GUY?
ONE OF THE NIGHT SHIFT I EMPLOY AS MY AGENTS. HE CALLS HIMSELF THE WAXMAN.
"THE WAXMAN"? AS IN THE ONE WHO FOUGHT SPIDER-WOMAN?
HAVE YOU EVEN GOOGLED THIS GUY? HE'S A SERIAL KILLER!
A... WHAT?
IT'LL BE OKAY, MAMA. SOMEBODY'LL COME.
I'VE BEEN PRAYING REAL HARD. I KNOW SOMEBODY'LL--
--COME?

ARE...ARE YOU HERE TO SAVE US?
YEAH, KID...
...ALL YOUR TROUBLES ARE OVER.
UNHAND THAT CHILD!
DAMN YOU!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! OF YOUR ARROGANCE-- YOUR DEMANDS! STOPPING ME FROM DOING WHAT I DO BEST!
I QUIT!
AND YOU CAN'T USE YOUR SONIC WEAPON WITHOUT BRINGING THE ROOF DOWN ON THE KID!

YOU POOR FOOL. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE HERE WITH JUST ONE TRICK.
N-NO...SO COLLDDD...
FsSSs
YES, I FEEL THE COLD TOO.
LET ME REMEDY THAT.
SMASH
DIGGER! I HAVE THE RUBBLE. RETRIEVE THE CHILD.
Y-YOU BET, COFFIN COUSIN.

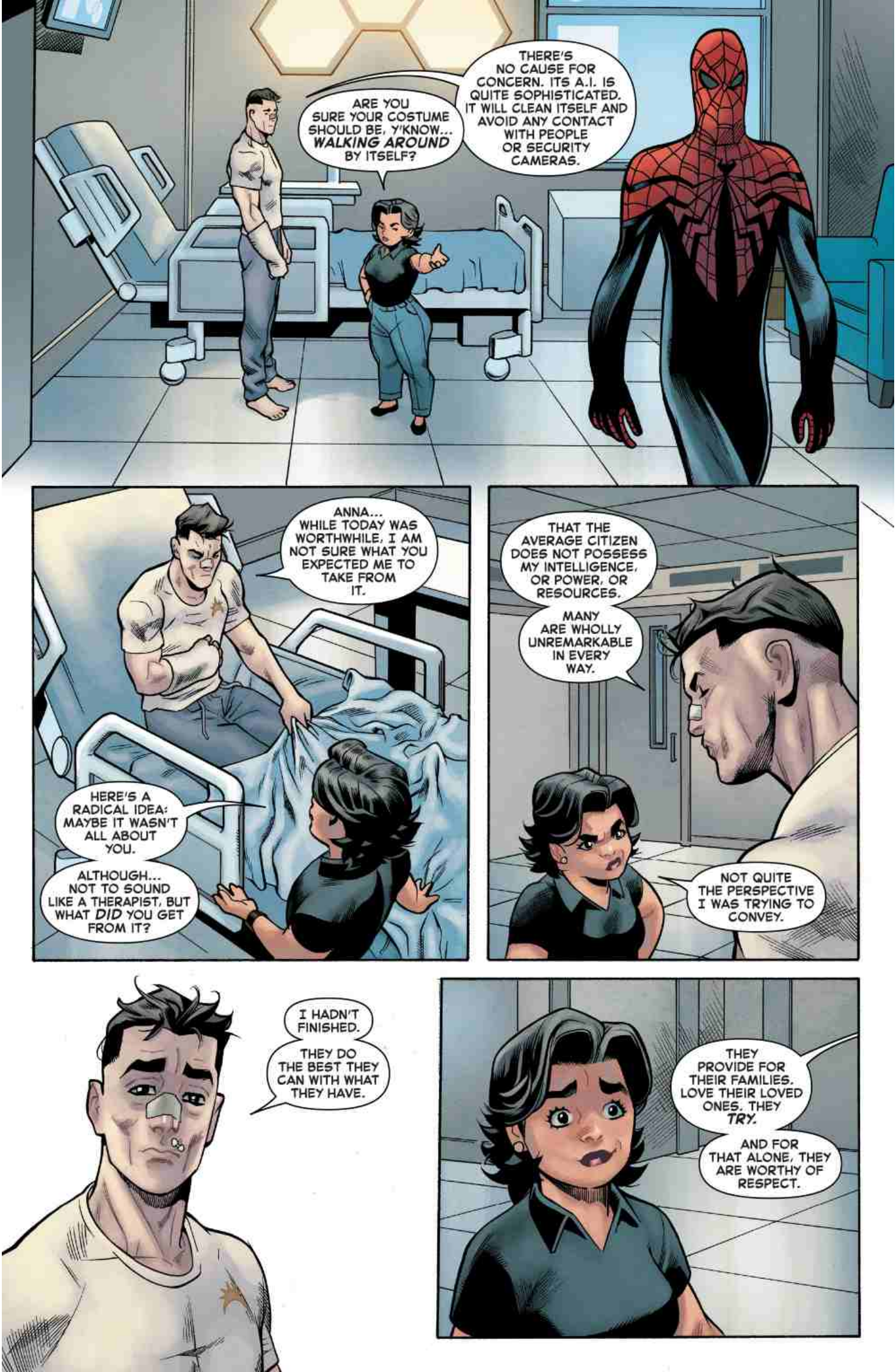
HE WAS A *SERIAL KILLER?* AND NONE OF YOU TOLD ME?
HOW WOULD WE KNOW? I MEAN, WE'RE BAD GUYS. IT'S LIKE THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION, YOU DON'T ASK ABOUT THE PAST.
UNBELIEVABLE! ARE THERE OTHER MURDERERS AMONG YOU?
YOU MEAN *CONVICTED*, OR...?
BOSS...WE GOT A PROBLEM HERE.
THE KID'S OKAY. BUT HIS MOM...
...SHE'S GOT SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH ME.
IF Y'KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

I... SEE.
IT'S OKAY, OTTO. I'VE GOT E.M.T.s ON THE WAY. THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BOY. JUST GET RID OF THOSE WEIRDOS BEFORE THEY SCARE HIM.
BEGONE, ALL OF YOU. AUTHORITIES ARE COMING.
I SHALL FOLLOW...
...IN DUE COURSE...
HELLO, YOUNG MAN.
ARE YOU SPIDER-MAN? YOU'RE MY FAVORITE! JUST ASK MY MOM!
I AM THE SUP...
...YES. I AM SPIDER-MAN.
IN REGARD TO YOUR MOTHER...
...THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.

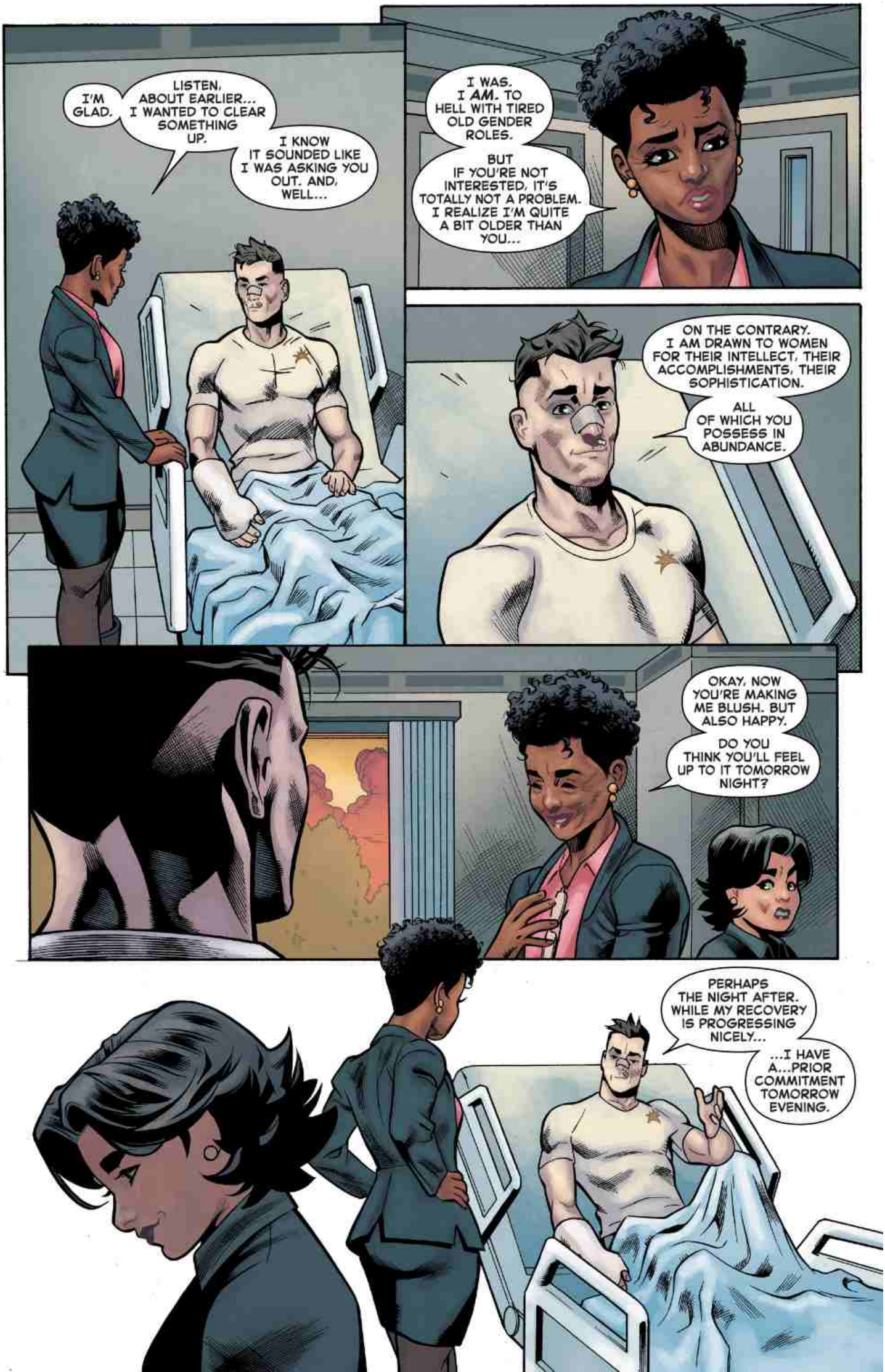


OKAY, THAT WAS... IMPRESSIVE.
WHAT YOU SAID TO THAT KID...IT WAS WHAT HE NEEDED TO HEAR. AND I REALLY BELIEVED YOU KNOW HOW HE FEELS.
I LOST BOTH MY PARENTS. THEY WERE...DAMAGED PEOPLE. BUT THE LOSS IS FELT NONETHELESS.
LISTEN, YOU DID GOOD BACK THERE.
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK...
NO.
YOU WERE RIGHT.
THESE PEOPLE NEED MY AID. AND MORE...
...THEY *DESERVE* IT. FOR AS LONG AS I AM ABLE TO GIVE IT.

HEY. YOU CAN CALL IT A DAY.
I'M MONITORING POLICE RADIO. THEY'RE PRETTY SURE THEY'VE GOT EVERYBODY.
I... SUPPOSE I COULD DO WITH A REST.


ARE YOU SURE YOUR COSTUME SHOULD BE, Y'KNOW... *WALKING AROUND* BY ITSELF?
THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN. ITS A.I. IS QUITE SOPHISTICATED. IT WILL CLEAN ITSELF AND AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH PEOPLE OR SECURITY CAMERAS.
ANNA... WHILE TODAY WAS WORTHWHILE, I AM NOT SURE WHAT YOU EXPECTED ME TO TAKE FROM IT.
HERE'S A RADICAL IDEA: MAYBE IT WASN'T ALL ABOUT YOU.
ALTHOUGH... NOT TO SOUND LIKE A THERAPIST, BUT WHAT *DID* YOU GET FROM IT?
THAT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN DOES NOT POSSESS MY INTELLIGENCE, OR POWER, OR RESOURCES.
MANY ARE WHOLLY UNREMARKABLE IN EVERY WAY.
NOT QUITE THE PERSPECTIVE I WAS TRYING TO CONVEY.
I HADN'T FINISHED.
THEY DO THE BEST THEY CAN WITH WHAT THEY HAVE.
THEY PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES. LOVE THEIR LOVED ONES. THEY *TRY.*
AND FOR THAT ALONE, THEY ARE WORTHY OF RESPECT.

AND EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING. SOMETHING THAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL.
MAYBE NOT SOMETHING THAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU. BUT IT'S STILL IMPORTANT.
EVERY LIFE HAS VALUE.
EXCEPT FOR THE WAXMAN'S.
WELL...
AND THE LOOTERS. AND THE OPPORTUNISTS SELLING BOTTLED WATER FOR VASTLY INFLATED PRICES.
I HAVE INSTRUCTED MY SPIDER-BOTS TO TASE THEM. NOT FATALLY, MERELY TO THE POINT WHERE THEY SOIL THEMSELVES.
WHY DON'T WE QUIT WHILE WE'RE AHEAD.
ELLIOT! HOW WAS PHYSICAL THERAPY?
TIRING. BUT IN A GOOD WAY.


I'M GLAD.
LISTEN, ABOUT EARLIER... I WANTED TO CLEAR SOMETHING UP.
I KNOW IT SOUNDED LIKE I WAS ASKING YOU OUT. AND, WELL...
I WAS. I AM. TO HELL WITH TIRED OLD GENDER ROLES.
BUT IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED, IT'S TOTALLY NOT A PROBLEM. I REALIZE I'M QUITE A BIT OLDER THAN YOU...
ON THE CONTRARY. I AM DRAWN TO WOMEN FOR THEIR INTELLECT, THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THEIR SOPHISTICATION.
ALL OF WHICH YOU POSSESS IN ABUNDANCE.
OKAY, NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH. BUT ALSO HAPPY.
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL FEEL UP TO IT TOMORROW NIGHT?
PERHAPS THE NIGHT AFTER. WHILE MY RECOVERY IS PROGRESSING NICELY...
...I HAVE A...PRIOR COMMITMENT TOMORROW EVENING.

THE NEXT NIGHT.
KIELBASA FOR EVERYONE!
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ENOUGH TO GO AROUND. THE REST OF YOU TAKE SOME, I'LL JUST EAT SALAD.
EAT! I'LL MAKE MORE. YOU'RE TOO SKINNY!
VERY WELL. IF YOU WILL UNHAND MY CHEEK IMMEDIATELY.
MADAM...
...THAT IS SUPERIOR KIELBASA.
I'LL GET YOU MORE!
THANK YOU, BUT I MUST WATCH MY FIGURE.

ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY...
THIS IS THE ROUGH PART. WHEN THERE'S NO MORE RESCUE, JUST RECOVERY.
COULD'VE BEEN WORSE. A LOT OF PEOPLE MOVED OUT OF THIS BUILDING WHEN THEY FOUND OUT A CULT OWNED THE BOTTOM FEW FLOORS.
HEY...AM I NUTS, OR IS THAT BLOOD DRAINING INTO THIS HOLE IN THE GROUND?
NOT OUR PROBLEM. LET'S GET OUTTA HERE, I CAN'T TAKE THIS SMELL MUCH LONG--
URRRKK!
AGGKK!
A BARELY ADEQUATE SACRIFICE.

BUT IT WILL SERVE.
MASTER PANDEMONIUM HAS RETURNED...
...TO BRING ABOUT HELL ON EARTH!